



United States  
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# **Survey and Manage, Migratory Bird and Management Indicator Executive Summary**

## **Green-Horse Habitat Restoration & Maintenance Project**

Shasta Trinity National Forest  
National Recreation Area Management Unit  
Shasta County, California

**Prepared by** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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The **Green-Horse Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Project** (Green-Horse project) was analyzed for its effects on wildlife species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Proposed under the Endangered Species Act; on designated Critical Habitat for those species; on species listed as Region 5 Forest Service Sensitive; and on Management Indicator Assemblages selected for project level analysis. The potential effects of all alternatives were analyzed in the *Wildlife Biological Assessment (BA)*, the *Wildlife Biological Evaluation/ (BE)*, the *Deer and Black bear Report*, the *Migratory Bird Report* and the *Management Indicator Assemblage (MIA) Report*.

This document is a summary of the site-specific Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation written to identify and evaluate the effects of proposed Forest Service actions on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species, and to ensure that these actions do not adversely affect any Threatened or Endangered species or Critical Habitat or cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability for any Forest Service Sensitive species. The BE and BA were written to provide biological information to ensure USDA Forest Service and Shasta-Trinity National Forest compliance with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Forest Service Manual 2670, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1536 (c) *et seq.* 50CFR 402], and followed the standards established in the Forest Service Manual direction (FSM 2672.42; USDA Forest Service 1991) and Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. These documents were written also to comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, to disclose effects on listed species and their habitats and to provide a standard process for full consideration of Federally Endangered, Threatened or Proposed species, and Forest Service Sensitive species, and their habitats in the decision-making process.

Migratory birds, Survey and Manage Species, and Management Indicator Assemblages were each analyzed and summarized below. Impacts to deer and black bear from the proposed activities were also analyzed, in response to comments and concerns conveyed by the public during the comment period.

The results of these analyses are described below:

## **Migratory Birds**

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The project will not adversely affect migratory landbird species or their associated habitats. Potential effects to migratory species would be minimized through project design, integrated design features and adherence to LRMP Standards and Guidelines such as for snags and down woody debris. The project is designed to improve habitat conditions in part by reversing vegetative trends that have resulted from a history of fire suppression.

## **Survey and Manage**

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Surveys for species described as Survey and Manage under the Northwest Forest Plan were not performed for the proposed project, as non-commercial fuels treatment such as prescribed burning is indicated as exempt from required survey under 'Pechman Exemptions'. Four exempted habitat disturbing activities,

or projects, are in place from the October 11, 2006 modified injunction order in *Northwest Ecosystem Alliance v. Rey* (Case 2:04-cv-00844-MJP, Doc. No. 109). Thus, these exempted activities can proceed and do not require surveys:

- Thinning projects in stands less than 80 years old;
- Replacing culverts on roads that are in use and part of the road system, and removing culverts if the road is temporary or to be decommissioned;
- Riparian and stream improvements projects where the riparian work is riparian planting, obtaining material for placing in-stream, and road or trail decommissioning; and where the stream improvement work is the placement large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions;
- **The portions of projects involving hazardous fuel treatments where prescribed fire is applied.** Any portion of a hazardous fuel treatment project involving commercial logging will remain subject to survey and manage requirements except for thinning of stands younger than 80 years old.

## Management Indicator Assemblages (MIA)

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Management indicator assemblages (MIA) are groups of wildlife associated with vegetative communities or key habitat components, as identified in the Forest Plan (page 3-24). The Forest Plan directs resource managers to monitor assemblage habitat trends at the National Forest scale (Forest-level). The Forest Plan permits the use of habitat components to represent the management indicator assemblages. A project-level analysis was conducted on the effects of the project on the habitat of each potentially affected management indicator assemblage, and described how these effects to habitat may influence Forest-level trends (for a detailed description of each management indicator assemblage analyzed for the proposed project, see the Project Management Indicator Assemblage Report). Although population status and trend monitoring is not required by the Forest Plan, the Forest has selected appropriate representative species for several management assemblages and collects and/or compiles data regarding population status and trend for these species at the Forest level. Population status is the current condition of the population measure for the representative species. Population trend is the direction of change in that population measure over time. Population data are compiled and discussed in Forest level monitoring reports, which are issued every 3 to 5 years.

Six habitat assemblages were analyzed within the Green-Horse MIA Report, as they were determined to be either directly or indirectly potentially affected by the proposed project. The assemblages are:

**Openings and Early Seral, Late Seral, Snag and Down Log, Hardwood, and Chaparral.**

Currently, the project area consists of a wide variety of habitat types that are present in various seral stages within multiple vegetative types. None of these habitats would change assemblage with the proposed actions. Low-intensity prescribed burns would affect all the assemblages present in the

treatment units, but without actually changing the assemblage currently represented. Effects would be in the form of a reduction in duff and small to medium diameter woody debris; a reduction in older, decadent brush and brush skeletons, a reduction in the smaller trees and brush within the understory of mixed conifer stands; and possible opening of small pockets of overstory, though not to the extent that would alter the assemblage category.